

Irene Fields
4600 Westwood Dr
Hood River OR 97031

Aug 31st 2018

Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

The recent petition submitted to the FCC by the US Telecom Association to eliminate Bridge 2 Broadband should not be approved. Rural communities could lose access to high-speed internet without shared lines being available to our local providers.

I live on the outskirts of a small community where I had to use dial-up internet for several years. Then a local start-up created an opportunity for locals to have high-speed internet. I live way out of town, so that provider offered internet access by installing a roof-top dish to connect to their network. It was the ONLY other connection to the internet available.

Now Century Link claims they can provide internet to my rural location, but their prices are higher and no faster. I want to stay with my local provider. They are available locally to deal with any problems I have. I can walk in to their establishment and meet real people who care about the community. They are an asset that should be protected.

Irene Fields